



# ELECTRICAL CURRENTS

Newsletter from the Office of the Chief Electrical Inspector

Ron Fuller, Chief Electrical Inspector

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## ● New WAC Provisions For Approval Of “Industrial Utilization Equipment”

Pictured is Chief Electrical Inspector, Ron Fuller (on right) with Bruce Gibson, Executive Vice President of Fatigue Technology, Inc. (FTI) in Tukwila at the first application of the new Labor and Industries approval decals for industrial utilization equipment. FTI is a supplier to Boeing and other international aerospace industry customers and has operations in Germany, France, and England.



Our electrical laws in Washington (chapter 19.28 RCW) require that all wiring, appliances, devices, and equipment be inspected and “*shall be of a type that conforms to applicable standards or be indicated as acceptable by the established standards of any electrical product testing laboratory which is accredited by the department.*” The new rule, WAC 296-46B-030, applies specifically to equipment used in a manufacturing process only and states in part, “**Industrial utilization equipment** means equipment directly used in a manufacturing process in a food processing or industrial plant, in particular the processing, treatment, moving, or packaging of a material.”

For specific equipment referred to in the National Electrical Code (NEC), typical consumer products like wire, receptacles, switches, panelboards, luminaires, and appliances, the Code states, “*It is the intent of this Code that factory-installed internal wiring or the construction of equipment need not be inspected at the time of installation of the equipment, except to detect alterations or damage, if the equipment has been listed by a qualified electrical testing laboratory...*” The NEC also makes it clear that the requirement for **approval** is “*acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.*”

We surveyed other states during the WAC rules development process. Washington is not the only state that requires third-party safety evaluation of electrical equipment by accredited electrical products testing laboratories. In fact, most states that regulate electrical work require this type of product safety assessment before the equipment can be approved. All of our neighboring states and the states in our reciprocal electrical licensing agreements (Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, Alaska, Utah, Nebraska, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Massachusetts) enforce third-party evaluation requirements similar to ours.

Some states will only accept listing and labeling of equipment when it leaves the factory. We are among the states that will accept “field evaluation” of unlisted equipment for conformance to appropriate national electrical product safety standards by accredited testing laboratories.

Washington is unique in developing rules that establish a process to allow an industrial utilization equipment owner and the equipment manufacturer to obtain approval by demonstrating their equipment conforms to national or international safety standards. Recent testimony (9-19-03) before the Senate Economic Development Committee by Kevin Dooley, Fatigue Technology’s Vice President of Finance, commended the department for its innovative cooperation with business in this specific area.

### ● Electrical Board Telecommunications Contractor Position Open

The telecommunications contractor Electrical Board member position is currently vacant following the relocation to another state of the current appointee. The department is currently seeking an interested and qualified person to fill this vacancy.

An *Application for Gubernatorial Appointment to a Board or Commission* form is necessary. Requests for copies of the application and any questions may be directed to Angie Wharton at (360) 902-5259 or Rhonnda Jenkins at (360) 902-5572. Applicants should submit a letter of interest, completed application form, and current resume to the office of the Chief Electrical Inspector, PO Box 44460, Olympia, WA 98504-4460, by **no later than November 1, 2003**.

### ● DEADLINE! Training School Programs Eligible for Retroactive Approval

Training school programs must be approved **before** a graduate requests credit for work experience hours toward electrician certification. **Until December 31, 2003**, existing electrical training programs may apply for **retroactive approval** of their program to determine the number of hours that may be credited for program graduates. If the specialty electrical training program applies before December 31<sup>st</sup> and is approved, students that successfully completed the program after January 1, 2000 may receive work experience credit. If you are an electrical specialty trainee affected by this change, contact the school you attended to see if they have submitted the training program to the department for approval.

### ● DEADLINE! Equipment Repair Specialty “Grandfathering” Opportunity

The opportunity to “grandfather” previous equipment repair experience and receive 07E equipment repair specialty electrician certification without examination expires November 30, 2003. All individuals who wish to receive 07E certification without testing must complete an **Application for Equipment Repair Specialty Electrician Certification Without Examination** and pay the appropriate certification fee **before December 1, 2003**.

For a more detailed explanation of this opportunity reference the newsletter article entitled ““Grandfathering” Equipment Repair Certification” published in the July 2003 Electrical Currents.

### ● DEADLINE! 07B Certification Conversion to Appliance Repair Specialty

When the effort to bring the appliance repair industry into compliance with the law was initiated, the only appropriate certification choices were 07-Nonresidential Maintenance and 07B-Residential Maintenance. Statute changes in 2002 enabled the creation of the 07D-Appliance Repair specialty. Many individuals that applied early and passed the 07B examination(s) would have opted for the more appropriate 07D certification if it existed at the time. **Individuals who work in the appliance repair industry may on or before December 31, 2003 convert their 07B certificate to the 07D specialty without exam.**

For a more detailed explanation of this opportunity reference the newsletter article entitled “**ATTENTION! APPLIANCE REPAIR PERSONS WITH 07B CERTIFICATION**” published in the July 2003 Electrical Currents.

### ● Electrical Question of the Month

**This Month’s Question:** Built-in dishwashers and trash compactors shall be permitted to be cord-and-plug connected with a flexible cord identified as suitable for the purpose in the installation instructions of the appliance manufacturer where the length of the cord is \_\_\_\_\_. **A)** less than 24 inches, **B)** less than 36 inches, **C)** 36 to 48 inches, **D)** as short as practicable.

**Last Month’s Question:** Disconnecting means, in other than dwelling units, require an identification plate identifying the purpose of the disconnect and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the circuit source panelboard that supplies the disconnect. **A)** Voltage, **B)** Amperage, **C)** identification designator, **D)** temperature limitations. **The answer is: C)** [WAC 296-46B-110 022(3)]